

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENNA 01812 241624Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 NRC-05 OES-07
SOE-02 DOE-11 /114 W
-----019527 250503Z /13

R 241537Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5317
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 01812

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: MMOL, MNUC, MOPS, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON NEUTROM BOMB

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA YEFREMOV CALLED ON ME AT HIS REQUEST ON FEBRUARY 22. HE OPENED MEETING WITH PLEASANTRIES ABOUT VODKA POWER AND BEAR HUNTING IN SIBERIA, BOTH OF WHICH HE CLAIMED PROWESS IN FROM HIS YOUNGER DAYS AS AN ENGINEER IN USSR.

2. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO PRESENT ENERGETIC DEMARCHE AGAINST US DEVELOPMENT OF NEUTRON BOMB AND ITS POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT BY NATO. YEFREMOV ADVANCED FOLLOWING WELL-KNOWN ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF SOVIET POSITION:
- WEAPON IS INHUMAN, MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPON WHOSE DEPLOYMENT VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS;
- PEACE-LOVING PEOPLES EVERYWHERE ARE OPPOSED TO IT;
- ITS DEPLOYMENT BY NATO WOULD DESTABILIZE BALANCE OF POWER IN EUROPE AND WOULD AFFECT ADVERSELY WORLDWIDE EFFORTS AT DISARMAMENT;
- ITS INTRODUCTION INTO EUROPE WOULD BE NEGATIVE FACTOR IN EAST-WEST DETENTE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENNA 01812 241624Z

YEFREMOV COMPLETED CIRCLE BY SAYING SOVIETS WERE, IN INTERESTS OF PEACE, READY TO SIGN AGREEMENT RENOUNCING USE OF SUCH WEAPON -- OR, IN FACT, ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3. I RESPONDED TO YEFREMOV BY OBSERVING THAT SO-CALLED NEUTRON BOMB IS NUCLEAR WEAPON AKIN TO THOSE ALREADY IN U.S. AND SOVIET INVENTORIES, WITH EXCEPTION THAT ENHANCED

RADIATION FEATURE MINIMIZES DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES. I THEN REVIEWED WITH YEFREMOV RATIONALE FOR U.S. DEVELOPMENT OF WEAPON, CITING OUR PERCEPTION OF CONTINUING INCREASE IN OFFENSIVE WEAPONS ARSENAL OF WARSAW PACT IN CENTRAL EUROPE AS THREAT TO NATO ALLIES WHICH IN TURN REQUIRES COUNTER-ACTION. I ALSO NOTED, ON OTHER HAND, APPARENT LACK OF PROGRESS AT THE MBFR TALKS IN VIENNA IN REDUCING SIZE OF TWO MILITARY BLOC FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. IN ADDITION, I CITED WHAT I THOUGHT WAS ANOMALY THAT USSR WAS VOLUNTEERING TO RENOUNCE WEAPON IT DOES NOT HAVE. LATTER POINT GENERATED PRICKLY RESPONSE FROM YEFREMOV THAT IF NO "ARRANGEMENT" IS WORKED OUT IN U.S. ON NEUTRON BOMB, USSR, WHICH HAS NECESSARY RESOURCES AND KNOW-HOW, WILL BE FORCED TO DEVELOP A SIMILAR WEAPON.

4. COMMENT: I REPORT THIS CONVERSATION TO SUPPLEMENT DEPARTMENT'S DETAILED COVERAGE OF USSR'S WORLDWIDE ORCHESTRATION OF ANTI-NEUTRON BOMB CAMPAIGN. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY DOES NOT INDICATE EXTENT TO WHICH SOVIETS HAVE MADE USE OF AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL DEMARCHES ELSEWHERE. YEFREMOV'S TO ME WAS CLEARLY UNDER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION FROM HIS GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A FORCEFUL ONE. DESPITE USUAL COMPONENT OF HISTRIONIC SOVIET BLUSTER IN THE MIDDLE, HOWEVER, MEETING OPENED AND CLOSED ON CORDIAL NOTE. WOLF

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR BOMBS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MDW, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENNA01812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780087-0491
Format: TEL
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780213/aaaaakwv.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6fa6b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3477840
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON NEUTROM BOMB
TAGS: MMOL, MNUC, MOPS, UR, US, (YEFREMOV, ALEKSANDR N)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6fa6b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014